

# The Jewish GailyForward

Cheshvan + Kislev + Tevet 5769 ■ November + December 2008

## What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

### Fall Scholar-in-Residence:

Rabbi J.B. Sacks

**SHABBAT, NOVEMBER 7-8, 2008.** We are very fortunate to welcome Rabbi Sacks as our Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar-in-Residence for Fall 2008. Please join us for a unique opportunity to learn from a gay Jewish pioneer. He will be teaching us at Friday evening Shabbat services (8:15 p.m.) and morning services (10:15 a.m.), and we will have further opportunities to learn with him at Shabbat lunch and a Havdalah program Saturday evening.

### Kristallnacht

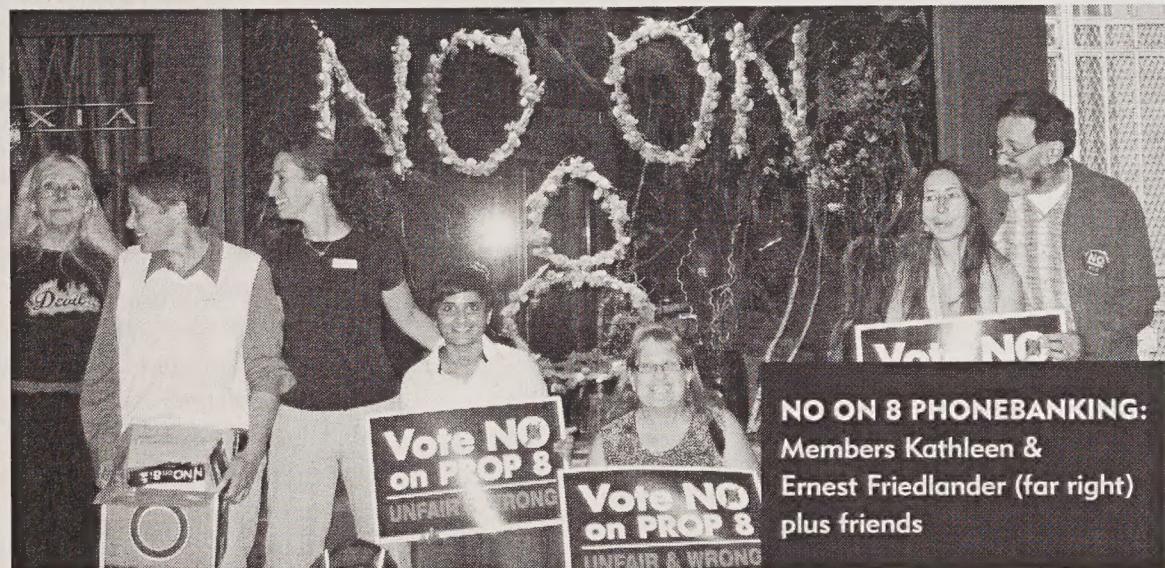
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:30 PM.** Rabbi Angel and participants from this past spring's Sha'ar Zahav trip to Eastern Europe will lead a commemorative service marking Kristallnacht, or The Night of Broken Glass, where in Germany in 1938, 92 Jews were murdered and 30,000 were arrested and deported to concentration camps while 200 synagogues and tens of thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed.

### Visiting Professor and Rabbi Samuel Joseph

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT SERVICES

**NOVEMBER 14, 2008, 7:30 P.M.** Join us for a special Kabbalat Shabbat

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**NO ON 8 PHONEBANKING:**  
Members Kathleen &  
Ernest Friedlander (far right)  
plus friends

## We Can Lose Without Becoming Lost

RABBI CAMILLE SHIRA ANGEL

t was like the breaking of the glass at the end of the Jewish wedding, which reminds us that despite our great love and joy, the world outside our chuppah is still broken and we need to mend it.

My elation began to deflate too soon on election night as news on Proposition 8 arrived. I felt angry, betrayed, vulnerable and suspicious. I felt sad and disappointed, my optimism hijacked by the threatening prejudice and homophobia in this state I call home.

Since the Supreme Court's ruling, we have labored tirelessly to protect our rights. Many of us set our skepticism aside and got legally married, again. Many of us attended weddings; some of us officiated at these civil wedding; and a tremendous number of us campaigned—phone-banking, going door to door, contributing tzedakah, and encouraging others to give generously of their time and money. Let no one think it was in vain.

Hearts and minds were changed. Real and lasting relationships and allies were made. Our Sha'ar Zahav community effort and leadership, both as individuals and as a collective gave us so many reasons to feel proud.

I want to share one example from many in our work with the San Francisco Organizing Project, where we have real opportunities to build bridges across lines of faith and race and class. At the October SFOP Clergy Lunch, I spoke personally about what Prop 8 means to me and my family and the members of my community. Sitting at the table with Catholics, Baptists, Methodists and others, I could sense the uneasiness grow as I asked folks to fight against the injustice of Prop 8, regardless of how they might feel about religious same-sex marriages.

One minister said that, although he couldn't work with us, he wasn't going to work against us. Another priest said he was confused because he is called to "Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself" and he knows we are his neighbors and his family and his parish members. Later, I received a phone call from this courageous Catholic wanting me to know he had reflected and prayed on the matter and had decided he would not follow the direction of the Archdiocese; he would not speak about or promote Prop. 8. We need to deepen our relationship with these churches in coming years.

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# The Art of Welcoming



## ON ROSH HASHANAH,

I spoke about three of the four Torah passages inscribed on our stained glass windows.

Let me tell you now about the fourth. The verses situate us in the story of Abraham and Sarah welcoming guests into their desert tent. The portion, (which is actually read this year in November) describes Abraham expressing an eagerness to greet and warmly receive these unexpected visitors. Though he himself is recuperating, he jumps up and proactively conveys his desire to afford them a respite from the heat.

Our ancestors' example of radical hospitality comes to be known as the *mitzvah of hac-nassat orchim*. Welcoming guests, inviting strangers into our homes is considered among the most important spiritual imperatives in Judaism. The Talmud teaches a remarkable lesson: "*Hacnassat orchim*, welcoming strangers, is a greater *mitzvah* than welcoming the *Shechinah*, God's presence" [Shabbat 127a].

Jo Ellen Kaiser's inspiring words of Torah on Yom Kippur began with noticing the Hebrew letters Kuf Kuf written on the outside of our building. An abbreviation for Kehillah Kedusha, "Holy Congregation," these words are meant to advertise our mission to the outside world as well as to remind those of us who've found entry—we are to be an open, welcoming tent where you can find nourishment and sustenance in relationship to others.

Our Va'ad has been reading a wonderful book by Dr. Ron Wolfson, *The Spirituality of Welcome: How to Transform Your Congregation into a Sacred Community*. Together we are studying and discussing ways in which we can make our communal home of Sha'ar Zahav more inviting to those who are still on the outside.

In the book we are reminded that people consider joining

"We, as a society, are at risk of losing the art of hospitality. We don't welcome strangers anymore—we are afraid of them. We don't greet people on the street—we avoid them. We don't even answer our phones without first checking caller ID to see if it is someone we know or want to talk with."

—Dr. Ron Wolfson

congregations for many reasons. The initial motivation for joining is because the congregation provides something: religious education, prayer services, a community of friends, a rabbi when needed.

Interestingly, most of the reasons for *remaining* at a synagogue are less tangible and pertain to the heart and soul—a sense of belonging and a sense of meaning. So it is that we need to find ways for new and disengaged congregants to acquire that sense of belonging and meaning. Our shared obligation as a *kehilla kedusha* is to be aware and conscious of such individuals and families so that they do not remain peripheral and unconnected.

Our mission is to be a synagogue of relationships. My dream for our *kehilla kedusha* is that it is a place where we find people with whom we want to associate, people we admire, people we want to emulate, people we want to learn from and with, and people who are radically different from us. When we make connections with these people, they influence us in a variety of ways—impacting our values, our behaviors, and even our beliefs.

Let me conclude by highlighting one very opportunity that we've created with the spirit of welcoming people from other religious backgrounds into our home.

Our Multifaith Thanksgiving Service, this year held on Tuesday, November 22 at 7pm., has become an annual highlight. More than a dozen faith communities join us in celebrating and give thanks for our bounty and in collecting food and money to feed the hungry. We need each other more than ever this year. I hope you will make every effort to be there.

May we continue to grow in relationship to one another and in so doing fulfill our mission to be a *kehilla kedusha*.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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# Covenants: Not Just for Sinai



**WHAT DOES IT** mean to be a leader at Sha'ar Zahav? And what does it mean to be a member? Rabbi Angel has often used the word "covenant" to characterize the relationship she has with our shul. The term describes a reciprocal relationship which works in many ways like a "contract"—but there's a spiritual intentionality present in a covenant which is not generally present in a contract.

Rabbi Angel's formal employment contract uses the word covenant to capture the nature of our mutual agreement to undertake "the obligation to work together in the service of God, the Jewish people, and the community of Sha'ar Zahav." I think that definition makes sense for all of us.

This summer I introduced a "Covenant for Leadership" to members of the Va'ad, with an intention that after discussion, we will each formally enter into such a covenant. In the current draft, the introduction states: "Serving on the Va'ad is an honor ... and a responsibility which requires considerable commitment: Commitment on the part of each Va'ad member to accept ownership of the well-being of the congregation; and commitment on the part of the President, officers, clergy and staff to honor the Va'ad's role." The language of this covenant is still under development. I will be happy to share the resulting document after we finalize it.

Does a "Covenant of Membership" exist at Sha'ar Zahav? Many of us may feel one exists in our synagogue/member relationship, but to the best of my knowledge, such a covenant has never been explicitly discussed or formalized.

To become a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, each person is asked to complete an application indicating some level of intentionality. In accepting your application, the synagogue is making a commitment each of you. The synagogue provides regular religious services each week; holiday observances; adult and children's education; and life cycle ceremonies. Sha'ar Zahav also provides frameworks for personal service in meaningful social action and Bikkur Cholim projects. Finally, Sha'ar Zahav offers us some more intangible benefits: a community in which to celebrate and one to support you in times a need; a community for friendship ... and love; an anchor in an uncertain world.

And what obligations does each member have in this covenant? I would argue that each member should commit to engage in and support our community. That includes respectfully sharing your concerns and being open to engaging with others around issues that trouble you. Members who are engaged in and support our shul will never just throw up their hands and walk away.

Evaluating the value of our membership should not just be about assessing: "Are *my* needs being met?" Joining a synagogue is not like buying tickets to a performance. Maybe it's like President Kennedy's pivotal question: "Ask not what your shul can do for you, but ask what you can do for your shul."

So what can we do for Sha'ar Zahav? Certainly financial support is important: Dues, our annual Rainbow Fund campaign, our annual High Holiday appeal, honoring someone with a donation, and, for those who are able, participating in our Chai Campaign for major enhancements to our physical and programmatic offerings. Yet "Supporting" is not just a financial effort. We also should commit to giving of our time and energy to enrich the programs and services we offer: teaching a class, helping with the newsletter, volunteering to help create a spectacular Chanukah party this December.

"Engaging in" community means not being passive toward Sha'ar Zahav. When we join, we should expect to make connections, but only through our own efforts to be present and engaged so that those connections might emerge. Our school has recently started a trial program called Circle of Commitment, whereby in addition to paying tuition, parents are expected to commit to some service to the synagogue or to the school. Rebecca Weiner explains that the aim is to increase each parent's spiritual *kavanah* with a promise that the more they get involved, the more they will get out of their connection to Sha'ar Zahav and to Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer.

What do you think? I hope to schedule a more formal way for us to address this topic in the future, but in the meantime, please let me know your thoughts on what components might be included in a Covenant of Membership: president@shaarzahav.org. Thank you. May we—members, clergy, staff, leadership—all find the will and the words to enter into a holy covenant with Sha'ar Zahav.

## Va'ad Members

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# What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav?

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service. The *drash* (sermon/teaching) will be delivered by Rabbi Samuel K. Joseph. Rabbi Joseph is Professor of Jewish Education and Leadership Development at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, where he teaches in the rabbinical school.

## Transgender Remembrance Shabbat

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:30 PM.** Since 1999, November 20 has been set aside in cities across the country to memorialize those who have been killed due to anti-transgender hatred. At Friday night services we will remember all who have suffered from anti-transgender violence, with special

liturgy, music, drash, and the reading of names. More information about the Day of Remembrance can be found at <http://www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html>

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 7:00 PM.** Join with our neighborhood faith communities for a service of praise, prayer, and song from our many faith traditions. We invite you to join us as we give thanks for the many gifts in our lives. We will be collecting non-perishable food items (no glass please) so that we may donate to those in need.

## MEETINGS:

### CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 7:00 – 8:30 PM;**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:00 – 8:30 PM.** It is one of the central religious obligations in Judaism; pursue justice. One way to do this at Sha'ar Zahav is to join the CSZ San Francisco Organizing Project Committee meeting. Help us look at the next steps to

We apologize for the delay in getting out the JGF this month. Already late because of the Jewish holidays, the JGF was held back a week longer so that we could write about the elections. Expect the January JGF promptly by January 1.

continue to making history in San Francisco with our work on increasing access to health care. Come to the meeting or, for more information, contact Josh Weisman [josh@sfop.org](mailto:josh@sfop.org).

## Come One, Sing All with the CSZ Chorus!!

**4 MONDAYS: DECEMBER 1ST, 8TH, 15TH & 22ND, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.; SHABBAT CHANUKAH SERVICE, FRIDAY NIGHT DECEMBER 26TH.**

Calling all our members who love to sing!! The CSZ Chorus will begin its Chanukah rehearsal season on Monday December 1st, 2008. Musical background is not necessary—the only requirement to join the chorus is your commitment to being at the rehearsals and the services. The chorus will sing at CSZ's festive Chanukah service on Friday night December 26th. Please contact our chorus director, Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman, to rsvp or for more information: [reuben@shaarzahav.org](mailto:reuben@shaarzahav.org), or (415) 861-6932 ext. 306.

## CLASSES:

**Reform Judaism: History, Theology and Sociology** Taught by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

**3 TUESDAYS: OCTOBER 28TH, NOVEMBER 11TH, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2008 7:00-9:00 P.M.**

These sessions will provide students with a background in the growth and development of the Reform movement from its roots in Europe to its contemporary manifestations throughout the world. By discussing the major issues that confront the movement in both the United States and abroad (especially in Israel), the students will gain a fuller appreciation of the heritage, history, theology and state of Reform Judaism.

**Rabbi J.B. Sacks** is our scholar in residence this Fall. Rabbi Sacks was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and is one of few openly gay rabbis in the Conservative movement. He currently serves on the faculty of the Academy for the Jewish Religion (AJR) in Los Angeles, an alternative seminary that embraces all four branches of Judaism. Rabbi Sacks has also taught at the University of Judaism and Hebrew Union College as a Visiting Professor, usually in Bible.

Rabbi Sacks descends from 17 generations of rabbis on his mother's side. He received his A.B. degree in Spanish in 1978, his B.Lit. in Jewish Studies from the University of Judaism in 1982, and has been honored with awards in Talmudic studies. He recently completed his coursework toward his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at Claremont Graduate University.

As a rabbi, Rabbi Sacks has long worked with issues of inclusion within the Conservative Movement, and on issues of poverty and social justice. He also has worked in areas of liturgical change. He has been active within the Jewish community on HIV/AIDS, and founded the Interfaith Network of New Jersey, the oldest interfaith organization involved in supporting people with AIDS as well as their families and friends. He helped to establish the annual World AIDS Day observance at the Jewish Museum in New York City, and has also worked with support groups for rabbis living with HIV.

Rabbi Sacks is active in Jews for Marriage Equality, currently helping to get his rabbinic colleagues to join in support of marriage equality and to help defeat Proposition 8 on this November's ballot.

Rabbi Sacks lives with his life partner, Steven Karash and their son Evan in Los Angeles.

**CHANUKAH 2008**

# Latkes and Vodkas and More

Join Sha'ar Zahav and our community for an adult Chanukah party on Thursday, December 18, from 6:30 to 10:00 pm at the LGBT Center, Terrace Room. The admission is \$5-\$18 on a sliding scale. There will be schmoozing and dancing, food and drink (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), and a burlesque show. Leaders in our community will be honored in a candle lighting ceremony. Look for a silent auction with on-line bidding coming soon.

are considering, or are in the process of, converting to Judaism. Topics will include questions of identity, community, and family. People who have recently completed the conversion process but would like to connect with a group to discuss these issues are also welcome. This class is not an introduction to Judaism, but rather a place to ask questions and discuss issues with others who are also on this journey. **Please note:** In order to create a comfortable group environment, this class will not be open to new participants after the second session. Participants must have met at least once with Rabbi Angel prior to enrolling in this class. Please contact the CSZ office with any questions.

#### **Service-leading for Beginners at CSZ**

Taught by Cantor Sharon Bernstein

**2 WEDNESDAYS: DECEMBER 3RD AND 17TH, 2008 6:45-8:45 P.M.** If you've ever thought about leading services at Sha'ar Zahav, join Cantor Bernstein for this class! All Sha'ar Zahav members are welcome to lead Shabbat and holiday services in our community. No experience necessary. Brand new leaders and also those who have recently started leading are invited to come and learn about the prayers, melodies, and *minhagim* (customs) of Sha'ar Zahav.

#### **Trans in the Talmud? Transgender and Intersex People in Traditional Jewish Texts**

Taught by Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman

**3 MONDAYS: NOVEMBER 3RD, 10TH AND**

**17TH, 2008, 7:00-9:00 P.M.** In today's world, transgender and intersex experiences are often hidden or marginalized. But Jewish texts since 200 C.E. are full of trans and intersex people, and the perspectives of our ancestors about sex and gender can often be surprising. Today, many of these extraordinary writings are again coming into the light, and queer Jews around the world are bringing our fresh voices to a 2,000-year-old conversation. All are welcome to join us to study texts from the Mishna, Talmud, and Midrash, as well as medieval law and poetry, all through a gender-queer lens.

#### **Intermediate to Advanced Service-Leading Techniques**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 6:45-8:45 P.M.**

An opportunity for seasoned service-leaders to hone your craft. We will discuss and play with different ways of interpreting the prayers, deepening our *kavanah*, soaring our *ruach*, and being a *shaliach tzibur*, a prayer messenger of the community.

#### **Rabbi's Shabbat Morning Class**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Join Rabbi Angel to study and discuss critical and current topics in the Jewish and LGBTQ communities. All are welcome.

#### **Choosing Judaism: A Discussion Group**

Facilitated by Rose Katz and Andrew Ramer

**6 TUESDAYS, 7:00-9:00 P.M.: NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 16, 2008; JANUARY 13, FEBRUARY 10, MARCH 10, APRIL 14, 2009.** This class will explore issues that arise for people who

#### **Let's Learn to Immerse: A Visit to the Mikveh (the ritual bath)**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.**

**AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MIKVEH: 3355 SACRAMENTO STREET (BETWEEN PRESIDIO AND WALNUT)** Have you ever wondered what the mikveh is all about? It's time to get educated on the wonders of immersing in the mikveh. Join our Rabbinic Intern, Reuben Zellman, and the SF Mikveh's Betsy Eckstein for an educational tour. We have allowed enough time to give the participants an opportunity to immerse if you choose to. If you want to continue talking, after our tour and optional dunking, we'll grab some lunch nearby and have further discussion.

**Space is limited. Please RSVP to [reuben@shaarzahav.org](mailto:reuben@shaarzahav.org), or (415) 861-6932 ext 306, or contact him with any questions.**

# On the Ark



**AS I SIT** down to right this, we are smack dab in the middle of the days of awe and four weeks away from the election. It

seems in many ways that we are poised on several precipices where the world could spin out in new and revolutionary outcomes or in regressive and painful directions. In all my years of working with children, I have found that they are not immune to the larger issues in the world and they too sense when the world is taking a new spin on its axis.

So what do we do as a community to celebrate or heal or regenerate in the midst of so much change? This summer I accomplished the highly satisfying and yet daunting task of organizing the BSPM bookshelf. It was educational in several ways. For instance, I now know that I have the entire Sammy Spider series and don't have to keep ordering them each year. I also was able to deduce what stories and topics really had meaning for this community based on how many books we had on a certain subject. I was drawn to the Noah story because I discovered we have at least fifteen books on the subject.

I have pondered why the story of Noah has so much meaning for this community and for the Jewish community as a whole. Perhaps it is the legacy of both LGBT history and Jewish history that resonates with the notion of a world completely changed or the great escape or the idea of each individual's importance in the completion of Tikkun Olam. And of course there is always that rainbow.....!!

In the past couple of months, I have thought of our BSPM community as an ark of sorts, a place of refuge, a safe haven for a students and families. Instead of elephants two by two, we are families of all shapes, colors and sizes that come on board here to ride out the seas of possibility and change. It is my hope that the students at BSPM will always associate their Jewish identity with a sense of belonging and the

importance of community. It is my hope that they will stay active in community and see the belonging to a Jewish community as a crucial part of their adult lives.

I also want them to understand that no community is perfect. It seems certain to me that the animals on the ark must have had some conflict. Perhaps the elephants really thought the ark was much more user friendly for the lions. Perhaps the monkeys were waxing nostalgic for how the ark smelled on the first couple of days on the journey and not on the 40th. Perhaps they squeaked and squawked and mooed and nayed through a lot of discord and shaking of paws in the air, but they did it together with a common goal and with an understood outcome.

This idea of commitment is one of the main values that I want our students to take away from their Jewish education. I want them to feel that they can walk into any shul and if they don't feel comfortable then to make it so. I want them to understand that perhaps they will not feel comfortable every moment in community but that is no reason to abandonment, if you will. I want them to realize their own relationships with Judaism and with their notion of G-d but also always hold the importance of minyan, of institution of infrastructure of paying their dues. And in these communities, I hope they will always have their voices, wonderful learning and excellent nosh.

We don't know now where the high seas will take us, but as we embark on 5769 and anticipate other waves of change, I am honored to be on board with all of you. We will ride it out together and we will fall back on each other and this amazing community we have built.

B'Shalom,  
Rebecca

## CALENDAR

### FAMILY

#### **Friday Night Live - A Family Shabbat Service**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 6:00 - 7:00**

**PM; FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 6:00 -**

**7:00 PM** Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups to celebrate Shabbat with us. You don't need to know how to read Hebrew; you don't even need to know how to read! Engage all of your senses...See the light of the Shabbat candles... Hear and dance with the songs... Smell the sweet grape juice...Taste the yummy challah...Touch the Torah...and experience the Joys of Shabbat with your family and friends!

Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all are welcome as Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe lead us on a dancing, singing, stomping, laughing Shabbat time.

We invite you to stay for dinner in the oneg room following our Friday Night Live service. We will provide pizza, but we encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well. If you wish to sponsor this or a future FNL dinner, please contact the synagogue office, 415-861-6932. Is it your child's birthday month? This is a great opportunity to consider full or partial sponsorship!

#### **Shabbat Ruach**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 6:00 - 7:15**

**PM; FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 6:00 -**

**7:15 PM.** The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Program, which meets every third Friday, is a rocking ruach filled Shabbat service led by former Camp Tawonga Director, Deborah Newbrun and Isaac Zones of Friday Night Live fame. Join us for a pizza dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by services from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. Family and class participation will be a staple of this service and each week there will be drash performed by a dif-

## B'nei Mitzvah



**Samuel L. Ryan** will become a Bar Mitzvah on November 22 with the reading of Chayei Sarah. Sam is in the 7th grade at Brandeis Hillel Day School where he especially enjoys math and Hebrew, and he looks for-

ferent class. Let the ruach begin!!!!!!

For more information, please contact Rebecca Weiner, Director of Children's and Family Education: [rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rebecca@shaarzahav.org), 415-861-6932 x302.

### Tot Shabbat

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 10:30 AM**

Families with tots come together monthly for a program that includes prayer, challah baking, arts & crafts, music & movement, and storytelling. Tot Shabbat is a wonderful opportunity to build community with a diverse group of Jewish families. Tot Shabbat is open to both members and the general public. Please contact Rebecca Weiner for more details; [rebecca@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rebecca@shaarzahav.org), 415-861-6932 x302.

### East Bay Chavurah

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 6:00-9:00 PM;**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6:00-9:00 PM.**

We invite your entire family and your friends (non-members warmly welcomed) to CSZ's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with a vegetarian/vegan potluck as we share blessings and check in, while singing, eating, and enjoying each other's company. At around 7:30, adults (and teens) are invited to continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. We invite parents of young children to take advantage of our childcare during this time. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Richard Weiner, 510.531.7660, or Sue Bojdak, 510.530.9955.

ward to visiting Israel next year with his 8th grade class. Sam loves to read science fiction, enjoys a good comedy (especially Adam Sandler) and plays the flute. Prior to middle school, Sam attended Rooftop Alternative School.

Athletic and an avid sports fan, Sam runs cross-country and plays soccer and baseball. He once stole home to win an all star baseball game. Said Sam's Bar Mitzvah mentor, Ron Lezell, "Our sessions usually begin with catching up on the travails of the San Francisco Giants and my challenge to respond to Sam's insightful questions related to his Torah and Haftara portions."

Sam says that preparing for his Bar Mitzvah has helped him to "get" religion and "makes me feel more Jewish." Following his Bar Mitzvah, Sam hopes to more fully observe Shabbat including having Shabbat dinners.

Sam is the great-grandson of Samuel Isenberg.



**Lisa Windesheim-Zigas** will be called to read torah at her Bat Mitzvah on Dec 6, 2008. Lisa is a 7th grade Spanish immersion student at James Lick Middle School in San Francisco, and she has been attending Beit Seifer since Kindergarten. As a mixed-

race child, adopted into a Jewish home, the diversity at CSZ has supported Lisa's exploration of her social as well as her spiritual identity. Thanks to all of Lisa's teachers at CSZ for guiding her through her Jewish education.

Lisa has an interest in writing and drama as well as the technical aspects of stage production, including make-up and wardrobe. She enjoys music and sings in a rock band at school, and made time to regularly volunteer at the Obama for President headquarters. After the election, she will be volunteering at The Jewish Home as well as helping at A Woman's Place, a homeless shelter for families.

Her mentor, Sarita Grotisser has been a true inspiration and motivator. She and Lisa have developed a relationship that will go beyond her bat mitzvah training. The entire family thanks you, Sarita! Andrew Ramer, her drash mentor, has tapped into Lisa's deep thoughts and we are sure it will show in her Bat Mitzvah drash. Lisa's younger brother Parker, plays an ever changing role in her life. Keesha, the dog, protects her from a safe distance.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, as a community, has been an incredible force in Lisa's process, and we thank you.

## BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

### DECEMBER 3

Wednesday Class

### DECEMBER 6

Shabbat Class and  
Bat Mitzvah

Lisa Windesheim-  
Zigas

### DECEMBER 10

Wednesday Class

### DECEMBER 13

Shabbat Class—Beit  
Sefer  
Led Service

### DECEMBER 17

Wednesday Class

### DECEMBER 26

Hanukkah Celebra-  
tion

### WINTER BREAK

NO BEIT SEFER

### 12/20, 12/24, 12/27,

12/31

### JANUARY 3

Shabbat Class

### JANUARY 7

Wednesday Class

### JANUARY 10

Community Wide

### Havdallah

### JANUARY 14

Wednesday Class

### JANUARY 17

NO SHABBAT

### 12/20, 12/24, 12/27,

12/31

### JANUARY 21

MLK Holiday

### JANUARY 24

Wednesday Class

### JANUARY 28

Wednesday Class

### JANUARY 31

Shabbat Class

## **Chai-Siddur**

**Walter Leiss**

**Richard Meyerson** in honor of Walt Leiss.

## **Chesir/Stein Music Fund**

**Gerald Rosenstein** in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Lonnie Weiss** in memory of Sylvia Radovich.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

## **General Fund**

**Marianne Balin** in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Allan Berenstein** in memory of John Golebowski, Bernard Pechter and Rabbi Ben Marcus.  
in memory of Charlie Hart.

**Ellen Berger** in memory of Harvey Berger.

**Lore Borsoni** in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum's marriage.

**James Carlson** in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Paul Cohen & Bob Guttermann** in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.  
in memory of Bat Sheva Rawet.  
in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

**Eric & Aaron Cooper-Keitel** in memory of Richard Inlander.  
in honor of the wedding of Jon Funk & John Arnold.

**Leonie Darwin** in honor of the marriage of Alex & Martin.

**Doug Davidson** in support of our new Siddur.

**Karen R. Shevet Dinah** in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas & Theodore Dukas** in honor of the wedding of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

**Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane** in memory of Sadie Katz.  
in memory of Simon Lakritz.

**George Frenkel** in memory of Walter Steirman.

**Fox Frohlich** in memory of Arthur Frohlich.

**Mary Gentile** in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Avraham Giannini** in memory of Mary Lou Giannini.

**Grossberg-Abrams Foundation** in general support of our synagogue.

**Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum** in memory of Sadie Katz, Walter Steirman & Bat Sheva Rawet.  
in memory of Pearl Nathe.  
in memory of Miriam Mirvish.  
in appreciation of Walt Leiss's generous spirit.

in honor of Anna Bernstein's Bat Mitzvah.

in honor of Avi & Will's wedding.  
in honor of Rabbi Angel's return from sabbatical - and her and Karen's wedding.

**Nancy Kates** in memory of her friend, Kyle Stone.

in memory of Sadie Katz, mother of Rose Katz.

in memory of Martha Schwartz, mother of Tova Green.

in honor of the wedding of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

**Anna & Joshua Katz** in memory of Alice Katz.

in honor of Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta's wedding.

**Rose Katz** in memory of Anne Van Buskirk, Ronald Bernstein, Walter Steirman & Bat Sheva Rawet.

in honor of the marriages of Allan Gold & Alan Ferrera, Jonathan Funk & John Arnold and Avi Goldberg & Will Garcia.

in appreciation of Cantor Bernstein.

in celebration of the marriage of Rabbi Camille Shira Angel & Karen Segal.

in celebration of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Anna Bernstein.

in memory of Pearl Nathe.

in memory of Charlie Hart.

**Shoshana Levenberg and Marion Levenberg** in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Jordan & Carol Levitin** in memory of Carol's brother, Frank Hyman.

**Ron Lezell** in memory of Walter Steirman.

in memory of Ronald Bernstein.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

in memory of Bat Sheva Rawet.

in honor of the marriage of Kathy McHenry & Cynthia Navarro.

in honor of Rabbi Angel & Karen Segal's marriage.

in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum's marriage.

in memory of Martha Schwartz.

**Marc Lipschutz** in memory of Bat Sheva Rawet, Dorothy Sickles, Sadie Katz, & Walter Steirman.

in honor of Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum's wedding.

**Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner** in honor of Alex & Martin.

**Mark Mackler** in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Andrew Martin & Aimee Raphael** in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Nancy Meyer** in memory of Richard Inlander.  
in memory of Ronald Bernstein.  
in memory of Nelly Levy Meyer.

**Richard Meyerson** in honor of Martin & Alex's wedding.

**Leslie Miessner** in memory of Kurt Wertheimer.

**Frances Moore** in honor of the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.

**Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz** in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Ronald Bernstein.  
in memory of Martha Schwartz.  
in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum's wedding.

**Harold & Francine Raphael** in honor of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum's wedding.

**Gerald Rosenstein** in honor of the union of Paul Colarik & Jay Kerzner.

**Jeff Rubin** in memory of his cousin, Shira Levin.

**Michael Sarid** in memory of Walter Steirman.

**Karen Schiller** in honor of Irene Ogus and all her work on our behalf.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.  
in honor of Alex & Martin's Wedding.

**Howard & Susan Sherer** in memory of the grandfather of Elana Robinson-Lynch.

**Arthur Slepian & Gerry Llamado** in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Robert Tat** in memory of Charles Hart.  
in honor of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Dr. Russell & Carol Tat** in memory of Charles Hart.

**Susan Tubbesing & Sarah Nathe**

in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.  
in memory of Susan's aunt,  
Doris Bezman.  
in memory of Susan's grandmother,  
Laura Bezman.

**Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack** in  
memory of Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Steve Weiner** in memory of  
Walter Steirman.

**Steve Weiner & Norm Dito** in honor of  
the marriage of Alex Ingersoll & Martin  
Tannenbaum.

**Larry Wexler** in memory of  
Walter Steirman.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Michael Zimmerman** in memory of  
Sadie Katz.

**Ami Zusman** in memory of Sadie Katz.  
in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in honor of the marriage of Alan Foss  
& David Larico.  
in honor of the marriage of Allan Gold  
& Alan Ferrera.  
in honor of the marriage of Alex  
Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.  
in honor of all those who've made  
the new siddur possible.

**High Holiday Donations**

**Laura Lowe**

**Daniel McGoldrick**

**Jack Rikess**

**Lonnie Weiss**

**Eva Zysman** in memory of her son,  
Dr. Andrew Zysman.

**High Holiday Pledges 5769**

**Anonymous**

**Robin Bowen** in honor of  
Reuben Zellman.

**Diana Buchbinder**

**Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach**

**David Gellman**

**Avraham Giannini** in honor of  
Dr. Mike Rankin.

**Andrea & Rick Goldman**

**Rose Katz** in memory of Marvin J.  
& Sadie Katz.

**Richard Meyerson**

**In-Kind Donations**

**Jim Acerra** 3 Spirituality of Welcoming  
Books for the CSZ Library!

**Phyllis Mintzer Education  
Fund**

**Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane** in  
memory of Ronald Bernstein.  
**Nancy Kates** in honor of the civil  
wedding of Hilary Zaid  
& Lauren Augusta.  
in honor of the civil wedding of  
Ilana Drummond & Sharon Dulberg.  
**Hal Podgur** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah  
of his great niece, Jessica Vogel.

**Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk  
Musical Event Fund**

**Jason Feinberg** in honor of Jon Funk &  
John Arnold's wedding.  
**Jonathan Funk** in honor of Alex Ingersoll.  
in honor of Ora Prochovnick.

**Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum** in  
honor of Jonathan & John's wedding.

**Joel Paul** in honor of Jon Funk and John  
Arnold's wedding.

**Rabbinic Intern Fund**

**Rose Katz** in appreciation of  
Reuben Zellman.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Allan Berenstein** in memory of  
Walter Steirman.

**Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane** in  
memory of Walter Steirman.

**Marius Greenspan** in memory of his  
father, Earl Greenspan.

**Rose Katz** in appreciation of  
Dev Felder Noily.

**Richard Meyerson** in memory of Walter  
Steirman.

**Daniel Najjar** in honor of Rabbi Angel &  
Karen Segal's wedding and marriage.

**Jeff Piade & Martin Tilzer** in honor of  
Rabbi Angel & Karen Segal's wedding.

**Sharyn Saslawsky** in memory of  
Sadie Katz.

in memory of Walter Steirman.  
in honor of Mark Mackler's 60th  
Birthday.

**Sharyn Saslawsky & Liz Kantor** in honor  
of Alex & Martin's wedding.

**Brenda & Norman Sheldon** in honor of  
the marriage of Martin Tannenbaum &  
Alex Ingersoll.

**Sam Thal** in memory of

Walter Steirman.

in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Lydia & David Zinn** in memory of Sadie  
Katz.

in memory of Martha Schwartz.

**Marvin & Mimi Zinn** in memory of  
Walter Steirman.

**Ami Zusman** in honor of Rabbi Angel &  
Karen Segal's marriage.

**Rainbow Fund 5768**

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**Jay Davidson**

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**Marc Lipsett & Elizabeth Jaroslow**

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**Jeff Rubin**

**Elizabeth & Michael Schaffer** in honor  
of Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum.  
in memory of Sadie Katz.

**Lonnie Weiss**

**Rainbow Fund 5769**

**Jonathan Funk**

**Social Action Fund**

**Jane Matlaw** in honor of the marriage of  
Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll.

**If you would like**

**\*To celebrate  
a naches**

**\*To remember  
a loved one**

**\*To honor friends  
and family**

**\*To support the  
CSZ community**

**Consider making  
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in any amount**

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## Naches

**Patricia Lin**, a former Fulbright Scholar to England, was invited as a special guest to attend the London celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the United States-United Kingdom Fulbright Program on September 10th.

Mazel Tov once again to **Red Bennett**, son of **Noam Szoke**, who wrote an opera, entitled What They Seem, which was performed here in San Francisco the weekend of August 8th!.

Yishar Koach to **Annie Downs**, daughter of **Marianne Balin**, who has been accepted as a Peace Corps volunteer. She begins her service in The Gambia in November, 2008.

Yishar Koach to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, who was awarded second place by the J for Interfaith Synagogue Programming in their annual J's Readers' Choice Awards.

Yishar Koach to **Tsipora Prochovnick** for receiving the Aerial Gilbert Scholarship and for her student induction into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame of Northern California for swimming, climbing, and academics.

Yishar Koach to **Shayna Prochovnick** for competing at the JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit and returning with a Silver Medal for her participation with the SF JCC Girls Volleyball team.

## August

1/2

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The Gay Jewish Mahjong Players** In memory of Walter Steierman, father of Howard Steiermann. Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Alan Gordon** In memory of his mother, Adrienne Gordon

8/9

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **James Carlson** In memory of his mother, Jan Tuzzolino.

29/30

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Howard Steiermann, and friends of Marc Wernick** In honor of Marc's departure to NYC to pursue his Masters in Public Health degree.

Yishar Koach to **Dennis Ybarra** on the publication of his new book, *The Trouble with Textbooks*, available now at <http://troublewithtextbooks.org/>.

## New Members

We warmly welcome the following new member to our congregation:

**Aaron Buchbinder; Kirsten Hansen** and her 5 year old son **Elijah Hansen**; **Sarah Holley and Melissa Holden; Deborah Holley** (Sarah's sister); **David Mishook and Margaret Keene; Elana Robinson-Lynch and Ilana Sherer**; and **Kimmy Landis, Torino Von Jones**, and their 8 year old son **Golden Landis Von Jones** and their preschool age daughter **Sage Landis Von Jones**.

We welcome back with open arms **Hilda Rosenfeld; G'dali Braverman; Bobbie Rosenthal; Amy Cunnighis, Karen Golinski**, and their 5 year old son **David Golinski**; and **Leslie Einhorn, Jen Gandy**, and their 1 year old daughter, **Georgia Gandy Einhorn**.

## Births

Mazel Tov to **Susan Tubbesing** and **Sarah Nathe** on the birth of their granddaughter. Susan's daughter Laura gave birth to Ainsley Caitlin McIver on Tuesday, September 2. All are in good health!

## September

5/6

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **The Desmond-Bernstein Family** In honor of Anna's Bat Mitzvah. Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **The Va'ad, on behalf of the Congregation** In honor of Rabbi Angel's return from sabbatical. Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Beverly & Joseph Desmond and Rhoda Bernstein, grandparents of Anna Bernstein** In honor of her Bat Mitzvah.

19/20

Bimah Flowers & Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum** In honor of their marriage.

## Weddings

Mazel Tov to **Will Garcia** and **Avi Goldberg**, who were married at CSZ on Friday, August 1. Their civil marriage was small, with a large handful of Will's family in attendance. Their sons, Shai and Boaz made a most memorable journey down the aisle as co-ring bearers. Avi and Will will have their Jewish wedding come this spring.

Mazel Tov to **Hilary Zaid** and **Lauren Augusta** who got married Tuesday, August 12, at Oakland City Hall.

Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Funk** and **John Arnold**, who were married at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, August 15 at San Francisco City Hall (their 24th Anniversary!). Evan Arnold-Gordon was proud to serve as his Dads' best man and ring bearer.

Mazel Tov to **Dan Bellm** and **Rabbi Yoel Kahn**, who were legally married at home on Monday, August 18, with Judge Mary Morgan presiding.

Mazel Tov to **Kathy McHenry** and **Cindy Navarro** who celebrated their civil marriage ceremony this past Friday, September 5.

Mazel Tov to **Miki Goralsky** and **Ellie Cohen**, who were married on June 18, 2008 by Michael Smith in a very moving ceremony at the Marin County Civic Center garden. Present were their children Leah and Asi, as well as witnesses Tiela Chalmers and Miki's sister Tali.

Mazel Tov to **Martin Tannenbaum** and **Alex Ingersoll**, who were married by Rabbi Angel on Sunday, September 14 amongst family and friends in Provincetown, MA.

Mazel Tov to **Alan Foss** and **David Larico**, who were married on Monday, September 15 in a lovely beach wedding on their 13th Anniversary!

After 17 years together, **Deena Lahn** and **Mary Schroeder** were legally married at San Francisco City Hall on August 11. Their daughter, Izze Lahn-Schroeder, was the Maid of Honor and witness and their son, Harry Lahn-Schroeder, was the best man! Mazel Tov to the entire Lahn-Schroeder family!

Mazel Tov to **Sharon Dulberg** and **Ilana Drummond**, who were married in a civil ceremony on August 25 by their good friend Peter who was deputized for the day. August 25 was the six year anniversary of their Jewish wedding, which was officiated by Rabbi Angel in 2002.

## We Can Lose Without Becoming Lost

(continued from page 1)

It is natural to turn inward when defeat comes. We need time to digest the awful reality that others in California could not see that love should be acknowledged where it blossoms and that civil marriage is a basic civil right. But we have to be careful not to isolate ourselves. Our work is clear: we need to resist fear and vulnerability by dialogue with those across race and faith lines, those who misunderstand and, as a result, fear us.

In the voting booth, the sacred and the secular intersect. Historically, we Jews vote have voted not with our pocketbooks but with our compassion. As a whole, our group of "haves" votes traditionally for the "have-nots." In the voting booth, we remember what it was like to be slaves in the land of Egypt. Whether we learned it as adults or at our parent's feet or at our Passover seder or in our religious school classroom or our adult education courses, from the civil right movements of our childhood or the civil rights movements of our adulthood— we Jews have a stubborn streak to make this world better and not just ourselves richer, to feed the hungry and not just stuff ourselves with the fat of the land. And every time a Jew votes on election day for affordable healthcare, a new energy economy, for a responsible end to the wars, the spark glows again.

As we put our pain and disappointment into perspective, let us remember that when President Obama takes the oath of office in January, he will do so with a record of support for GLBT rights that eclipses that of any serious national candidate before him.

As Jews, we lift up our hope that a new day of freedom and dignity for all is coming. We won't stop mending the world until that day comes.

"Yes, we can argue and debate our positions passionately," said Obama, "but all of us must summon the strength and grace to bridge our differences and unite in common effort: young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled."

It is my intention that our Sha'ar Zahav community will continue to be united in that effort to bring justice to the world.



## Andréa D. Guerra Photography

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# LGBTQQI

By Howard Steiermann

**"WHY CAN'T** service leaders wear blue jeans on the *bimah* (pulpit)?"

I was asked recently. It's a good question.

I've seen service leaders wear Purim costumes; I've appreciated a *drash* (sermon) given one Folsom Street weekend with the darshon decked out in leather, and yep, I've worn grandma's brooches and once I wore nail polish on the *bimah*, each time tying the accessory into the sermon. But blue jeans on the *bimah* on a Friday night, nuh-uh.

I'm not railing against dungarees. I'm oh-so grateful to the Levi Strauss Company for creating and donating our beautiful Torah mantels (covers). So why no blue jeans on the *bimah*?

This rule is one of many that is part of our *minhag* (customs) around service leading. *Minhag* is fluid, changing over time. Those changes all go through the ritual committee (which meets the last Thursday of the month and welcomes all congregants to visit!). The goal of *minhag* is to create, on the one hand, a sense of order and sacred space, and on the other, to create a warm and welcoming space for people so they can congregate in community. It's not always easy achieving that balance.

In the thirty-plus years Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has been holding services, many lessons have been learned about achieving that balance, some of which I'd like to share with you:

► It's preferable if at least one service leader can hold a tune

► People typically enjoy hearing a personal story or some sharing from a service leader that makes the liturgy relevant.

► No more than two (2) new things (melody of a prayer or song we already know or new song, etc) per service

► We're sensitive to the breadth of Jewish experience: neophyte to nearly rabbinic. The entire spectrum is welcome and celebrated: both in the pew, as well as on the *bimah*.

These (and others) are not arbitrary rules, but rather were generated to make our services as accessible and

meaningful as possible. Additionally, I believe that they offer some life lessons.

For example, service leaders are expected to show up at least twenty to thirty minutes before a service to check that the sanctuary, and that we ourselves, as well as our co-leader, are ready to hold a spiritual space. I believe that's true in life too. If we have a chance to breathe prior to engaging in a task, it will go better, and be more meaningful.

Another *bimah* lesson which makes for a good life lesson is the importance for us as service leaders to accept that something unexpected often happens. All of us, even professional clergy, are human, so we have to know that when 'mistake' happens, it's ok. Our handling the unexpected in a competent manner allows congregants to feel they're in safe hands. Isn't that the same outside of shul? By admitting when we take a misstep, we allow others to be more compassionate. (And perhaps these admissions allow

us to be more compassionate with ourselves.)

Lastly, I remind newer service leaders that we don't have to do the whole service ourselves. Our co-leader is there to share the burden, and there are numerous other resources to call on for singing, leyning, writing and delivering a *drash*, etc. Which is another important life lesson: there are people around us willing and able to help, if we'll only ask.

As for blue jeans...the lesson may be, "the clothes make the person" or "dress the part to feel the part." Perhaps it's a method for all of us to remember that there's a time and place for everything.

Being at a service can be a transformative experience for all of us, service leader and pew sitter alike. I encourage you to think which skills you can bring to our *bimah*; which life lessons you can help teach, or which you'd like to work on. Please contact me. I'd be thrilled to help explore your opportunities to serve on the *bimah*.

# The Ma'ariv Service: The Desire for Holy Community

By Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

**T**hese words that I command you today shall be in your heart, and you shall ... speak... of them when you lie down and when you rise up.' So the Torah commands, and so Jews have done for millennia, reciting the Sh'ma morning and evening. It is a private prayer, one that does not require a minyan. Ancient people often recited it under the covers, at the exact time they went to bed. But the evening Sh'ma didn't stay in bed; rather Jews developed it into the Ma'ariv service. The Sh'ma is commanded by the Torah, but the Ma'ariv service was born of desire.

Ever since Mount Sinai, Jews have experienced holiness in community. The desire for holiness brought crowds to the Temple in Jerusalem while it stood, and all Jewish services are based on the liturgy that went with Second Temple sacrifices. The oldest liturgy consisted entirely of psalms. Later, the cohanim took to reciting the morning Sh'ma together after the first daily offer-

ing. They chanted the ten commandments and the traditional three biblical paragraphs of the Sh'ma before performing any additional sacrifices. Over time, more accreted: thanks for God's love before the Sh'ma, and after it an affirmation of belief, a prayer for the acceptance of sacrifices, and a prayer for peace. The last two constitute the earliest recorded version of the Amidah.

The daily sacrifices were always officially witnessed by representatives of the people, who came from different parts of the country in rotation while those who remained at home gathered to recite the same psalms and prayers that were being chanted in the Temple. Because offerings were made morning and afternoon, people gathered for public prayer twice daily.

The afternoon gathering took place while the sun was still in the sky, too early for the evening Sh'ma. To this day, the afternoon service includes no Sh'ma. It consists of an Amidah with penitential prayers, preceded by a psalm and bracketed by Kaddishes.

Since there was no evening sacrifice at the Temple, and since the Sh'ma can be recited privately at home, there was no need for a public evening service. But in communal prayer, shared intention and shared action can create a more intense experience of holiness. After the destruction of the Temple, Jews felt cut off from God. To reforge the connection, the rabbis of the academy at Yavneh created guides to prayer, including the outline of the morning service that we still use today. Rather than recite the Sh'ma quietly at home, Jews quickly adapted the service outline to evening prayers as well.

The evening and morning services both begin with the Ba'rchu, the call to public worship, and continue with brachot for the rising and setting of the sun, Yotzer Or and Ma'ariv Arovim. These were rabbinic creations, dating from after the destruction of the Temple. The next prayer, Ahavah Rabbah in the morning and Ahavat Olam in the evening, expresses thanks for our way of life. The Sh'ma, which includes the V'Ahavta and up to two additional paragraphs, is followed by the Geulah, a statement of faith in both past and future redemptions.

As late as the ninth century, the evening service ended with the Haskiveinu, a prayer for protection during the night and renewed life in the morning. However later generations weren't satisfied to end there. All other public prayer centers around the Amidah, and people began spontaneously adding it to the Ma'ariv service. By the eleventh century, the Amidah had become a standard part of the evening service.

Unlike those of the morning and afternoon services, which correspond to the public sacrifices that once took place in the Temple, the Ma'ariv Amidah is never repeated aloud by the service leader. Lacking any public function, the Ma'ariv Amidah, like the service of which it is part, came into being solely as a service of the heart.

## “Pride and Joy”

### *A Foster Care Program for LGBTQ Youth*

Thousands of children and youth are in foster care in the Bay Area. A disproportionate number of them are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer identified.

They are often invisible or rejected by their birth and foster families. We need people—gay and straight, young and old, couples and singles—to open their hearts and homes. Family Builders is currently recruiting families for its Pride and Joy program, a foster care program for LGBTQ youth. Please contact Charles Lerner at 510-272-0204 to learn more about the program.

## Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the following CSZ members on the death of their loved ones:

**Alan Michels**, on the death of his cousin, Stanley Michels

**Shelli Rawlings-Fein**, on the death of her aunt, Dot Stickle

**Rose Katz**, on the death of her mother, Sadie Katz

**Salo Rawet** and **David Gellman**, on the death of Salo's mother, Bat Sheva (Sylvia) Rawet

**Jay Dicker**, on the death of his cousin, Julio Roberts

**Susan Tubbesing** and Sarah Nathe, on the death of Sarah's mother and Susan's mother-in-law, Pearl Nathe.

## Member Yahrzeits

### November

- 3 Forrest Kincade
- 7 Donald Albert
- 11 Bruce Apter
- 11 Sidney Rosenthal
- 14 Harvey Levine
- 16 Chuck Norton
- 22 Tristano Palermino

### December

- 9 Nicholas Papadopoulos
- 18 David Glassberg
- 20 Norman David Kramer
- 21 Walter Palmer
- 28 Phyllis Mintzer
- 29 Allan Craig

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**Marty Rawlings-Fein**, on the death of his cousin, Cathy Miller.

**Tova Green**, on the death of her mother, Martha G. Schwartz.

**Tom Lakritz**, on the death of his father, Simon Lakritz

**Neil Hart**, on the death of his father, Charlie Hart

**Jim Frazin**, on the death of his sister, Terry Gail Frazin

## Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille Shira Angel*

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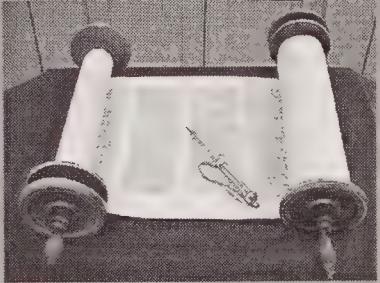
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Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor*

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# Sha'ar Tola'ah

SUNDAY

# Cheshvan-Kislev 5769

# NOVEMBER 2008

SATURDAY

FRIDAY

THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY

MONDAY

**3 CHESHVAN**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
10:15 am Shabbat Service

**10 CHESHVAN**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
10:15 am Shabbat Service

**17 CHESHVAN**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
10:15 am Shabbat Service  
10:00 am Rabbi's Torah class

**24 CHESHVAN**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
10:15 am Shabbat Service  
10:30 am Tot Shabbat  
Samuel Ryan Bar Mitzvah

**2 KISLEV**  
9:00 am Torah Study  
10:15 am Shabbat Service

**1 KISLEV**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service

**29 CHESHVAN**  
7:30 pm Thanksgiving Office Closed

**27 CHESHVAN**  
7:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**26 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**3 KISLEV**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**1**

**4 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**5 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**6 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**7 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**8 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**9 CHESHVAN**  
6:00 pm Friday Night Live

**10 CHESHVAN**  
6:15 pm Shabbat Service

**11 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Trans in the Talmud

**12 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**13 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**14 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**15 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**16 CHESHVAN**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service

**17 CHESHVAN**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service

**18 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**19 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**20 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**21 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**22 CHESHVAN**  
6:45 pm Va'ad meeting

**23 CHESHVAN**  
6:00 pm Ruach Shabbat

**24 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Shabbat Service

**25 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**26 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**27 CHESHVAN**  
7:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

**28 CHESHVAN**  
6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service

**29 CHESHVAN**  
7:30 pm Shabbat Service

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# Sha'ar Zahav

# Kislev-Tevet 5769

# DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	4 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal	5 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Service Leading class	7 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm SFOP meeting	8 KISLEV 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	9 KISLEV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Lisa Windesheim-Zigas Bat Mitzvah
	11 KISLEV 9:30 am Mikveh: Learn to Immere 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	12 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	13 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:30 pm Marketing Committee Meeting	14 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Welcoming Committee Meeting	15 KISLEV 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	16 KISLEV 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
	17 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	18 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal	19 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Service Leading	21 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	22 KISLEV 6:00 pm Ruach Shabbat 7:30 pm Shabbat Service
	24 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service Chanukah-First Candle	25 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal	26 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	27 KISLEV 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	28 KISLEV Office Closed	29 KISLEV 7:30 pm Shabbat Service Chanukah Celebration
	1 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	2 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	3 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	4 TEVET 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20	21
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31		

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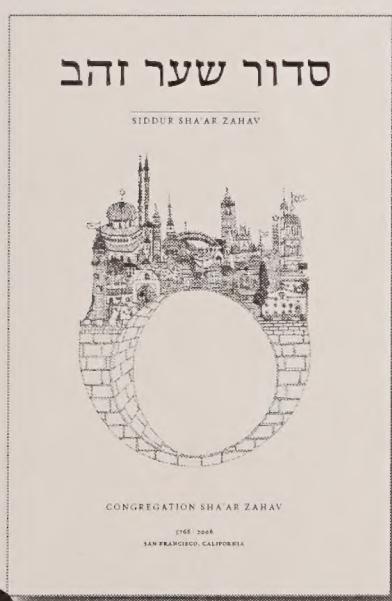
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